STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

AIR RESOURCES BOARD
1102 Q STREET
P.O. BOX 2815
SACRAMENTO, CA 95812

PLEASE NOTE

Enclosed are notices for public meetings to be held in Sonora and Fresno on November 5th and 6th, 1980, respectively, for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed redesignation of Emigrant Basin Primitive Area, High Sierra Primitive Area, Devils Postpile National Monument, Mineral King (addition to Sequoia National Park), and Golden Trout Wilderness from PSD Class II to Class I.

There will be another opportunity for giving testimony on the proposed redesignation of Emigrant Basin Primitive Area and Devils Postpile National Monument at a public meeting in Lee Vining and on Golden Trout Wilderness at a public meeting in Lone Pine. The dates for the public meetings in Lee Vining and Lone Pine have not yet been set but notice of the specific dates, times, and places of the public meetings will be sent out 45 days prior to the meetings.

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State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON A PROPOSAL TO REDESIGNATE THE HIGH SIERRA PRIMITIVE AREA, DEVIL'S POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT, MINERAL KING VALLEY (ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK), AND GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS FROM CLASS II TO CLASS I PURSUANT TO SECTION 164(a) OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Air Resources Board (the "Board"), or its delegate, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 39600, 39602, and 39605 will hold a public meeting at the time and place set forth below to take testimony on a proposal to redesignate the High Sierra Primitive Area, Devil's Postpile National Monument, Mineral King Valley (Addition to Sequoia National Park), and Golden Trout Wilderness from Class II to Class I pursuant to Section 164(a) of the Clean Air Act as amended in 1977, 42 USC Section 7401 et seq. (The "Act").

DATE: November 6, 1980

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hacienda Inn
Apollo 3 Room
Fresno, CA 93705
(209) 486-3000

Part C of the Act (Sections 160-169A) addresses the need to preserve, protect and enhance the air quality in areas which have air cleaner than the health-based national ambient air quality standards. The primary concept of Part C is the "prevention of significant deterioration" of air quality ("PSD"). The PSD program has been established and is currently administered by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") through regulations implementing the Act (40 CFR Section 52.21); ultimately each state including California must submit a PSD program to the EPA as part of its plan to implement the requirements of the Act. Guidelines for such plans are set forth in 40 CFR Section 51.24.

A key component of the PSD program is the classification of areas which have air cleaner than the national ambient air standards into one of three categories: Classes I, II and III. The Act establishes different increments of deterioration of air quality allowed for the different categories; Class I areas are allowed only minimal air quality deterioration while Class III areas are allowed the largest increases in air pollution but in no case to exceed national secondary standards. These increments apply only to particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. However, the Act requires EPA to establish a PSD program for hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, photochemical oxidants, nitrogen oxides, and lead which must provide specific measures at least as effective as the particulate and sulfur dioxide increments. This program may contain air quality increments, emission density requirements, or other measures which apply differently

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to the three classes of clean air areas. Although the Act required that EPA promulgate this new program by August, 1979, it has not yet been established and EPA estimates that it will not be issued in final form until May, 1982 at the earliest. The Act also provides that the construction permit process for major air pollution sources in clear air areas include additional requirements for sources which may impair visibility in Class I areas. EPA has interpreted this to apply only to Class I areas on federal lands.

Congress set forth the classifications of clean air areas in the Act. International parks, national wilderness areas and national memorial parks larger than 5,000 acres, and national parks larger than 6,000 acres which were in existence on August 7, 1977 were designated Class I. All other areas were designated Class II. No areas were designated Class III by Congress.

Areas may be redesignated only by the states or, in the case of lands within the exterior boundaries of federally recognized Indian tribes, only by the appropriate Indian governing body. Areas originally designated as Class I by Congress may not be redesignated as Class II or III; all other areas originally designated Class II may be redesignated Class I, or Class III if certain criteria are met. The Act directs that in evaluating a redesignation, the state consider the health, environmental, economic, social and energy effects. The EPA may disapprove a redesignation if it is prohibited by the above restrictions on redesignation or if specified procedural requirements are not met.

The Board staff has identified 30 Class II areas in the state for consideration of redesignation as Class I under the PSD program. The Board is conducting public meetings in the vicinity of these 30 areas to take public testimony on the advisability of redesignation of each. The Board will conduct one or more public hearings in early 1981 to consider the redesignations. Written and oral testimony presented at each of the public meetings will be considered by the Board at that hearing(s).

Four of the Class II areas identified by Board staff for consideration of redesignation as Class I are the High Sierra Primitive Area, Devil's Postpile National Monument, Mineral King Valley (addition to Sequoia National Park), and Golden Trout Wilderness. At this meeting the Board or its delegate will take testimony on the advisability of these redesignations. For each of the areas in question, the Board staff has prepared an "Overview and Impact Analyses" which sets forth the relevant increments of allowable deterioration, contains a specific description of the lands under consideration, and discusses the reasons for and impacts of the proposed redesignation, including a description and analysis of the health, environmental, economic, social and energy effects of the proposed redesignation. These documents will be available for inspection at or may be obtained from the ARB Public Information Office, 1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, on and after September 22, 1980. Further inquiries regarding these matters should be directed to Gary Honcoop, (916) 322-2700, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812.

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NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that interested persons may present comments, statements, or arguments relating to these matters orally or in writing. All written submissions must be filed with Jean Prentice, Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, or presented at the public meeting. Ten copies of any statement over ten pages in length should be submitted. It is anticipated that the Board or its designate will hold the record open to some later date for the submittal of additional written testimony.

Interested persons are further advised that the Chairwoman or her delegate may require that oral testimony be limited to a specified amount of time; however, all persons will be allowed at least five minutes for presentation or oral testimony.

The Board plans to take no action on the redesignations pending the early 1981 public hearing(s) described above.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

James D. Boyd
Chief Deputy Executive Officer

September 12, 1980

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State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

OVERVIEW
AND
IMPACT ANALYSIS
OF
PROPOSED REDESIGNATION
OF MINERAL KING VALLEY
(ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK)
(TULARE COUNTY)
FROM CLASS II TO CLASS I

SEPTEMBER 12, 1980

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OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL TO REDESIGNATE
MINERAL KING VALLEY
(ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK)
FROM PSD CLASS II TO PSD CLASS I

THE PROPOSAL

To consider redesignating the Mineral King Valley (addition to Sequoia National Park) from Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Class II to PSD Class I.

The Legal Background for the Proposal

The PSD program, as defined in Part C, Sections 160-169A of the Clean Air Act as amended in 1977 (the Act), provides for all areas to be classified into one of three categories, Class I, II, or III, for purposes of protecting areas with air quality superior to health-based national ambient air quality standards. These classes provide for differing levels of protection from air quality deterioration with Class I providing the most protection and Class III the least. Each of these classifications reflects different social, economic, and environmental needs of the areas placed into that classification. Air quality in the clean air areas is protected by allowing only the following amounts of deterioration for Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2).

Increments of Allowable Deterioration*

	Total Suspended Particulates			Sulfur Dioxide		
PSD	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class I	Class II	Class III
Annual	5	19	37	2	20	40
24-Hour	10	37	75	5	91	182
3-Hour	--	--	--	25	512	700

*Increments in micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$).

International Parks, National Wildernesses, and National Memorial Parks which exceed 5,000 acres, and National Parks which exceed 6,000 acres were designated by Congress in the Act as Class I. All other areas are currently Class II. Section 164 of the Act gives the states authority to reclassify existing Class II lands to either Class I or Class III. However, the reclassification of any area must follow the specific procedural requirements contained in Section 164 of the Act and amplified in 40 CFR 51.24(g).

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General Criteria for State Redesignation Proposals

At present, California is considering the redesignation of 30 areas within the state from Class II to Class I. These areas are primarily identifiable units of public lands, e.g., national monuments, state parks. Redesignating these public lands to Class I ensures the preservation of air quality which, in turn, supports the original purpose of setting aside these special lands for the preservation of environmental and cultural values, enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation, and the long term preservation of natural resources. Areas of privately owned lands not previously established as separate identifiable units also are being proposed for redesignation at the request of local government or citizens.

Areas were selected to be considered for redesignation from Class II to I after being evaluated on the basis of the following findings:

1. Areas recommended by Department of Interior, National Park Service for states to redesignate to Class I.

2. Lands for which a specific request has been submitted to the Air Resources Board (ARB) by a local government or by petition of local citizens.

3. Areas which received support for redesignation at previously held public workshops.

4. The existence of inherent natural resource values worthy of protection -- air quality being one such resource.

5. A relatively large state park area located near existing or other proposed Class I areas.

6. Lands (other than state parks) which, when combined with existing or proposed Class I areas, would form a cohesive unit for air quality protection.

Specific Criteria for Proposal to Redesignate the Mineral King Valley to Class I

Mineral King Valley was added to Sequoia National Park in 1978 in order to preserve its outstanding natural and scenic features for present and future generations and to enhance public enjoyment of the area.[1] The National Park Service manages the area in such a way as to provide quality opportunities for visitor understanding and enjoyment of the area's natural resources.

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[1] National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law No. 95-625, Section 314, 92 Stat. 3479 (1978).

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The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is considering redesignating Mineral King Valley from Class II to Class I. The following criteria provided the basis for the proposal:

1. The area, by being part of a National Park, has been identified as having natural resource values worthy of protection -- air quality being one such resource;

2. Maintaining a superior level of air quality would support the goal of public use and enjoyment of the area;

3. Lands which, when combined with existing or proposed Class I areas, would form a cohesive unit for air quality protection.

The Redesignation Process

In compliance with requirements in Section 164(b) of the Act, the ARB is carrying out a public participatory process which includes public meetings to take testimony on the redesignation proposal and its impacts. Staff will open the public comment record with the public meetings, and the record will remain open until a public hearing is held by the Board at a later date to decide whether to redesignate the area to Class I.

Attached are the analyses required by federal regulations of the social, economic, energy, health, and environmental impacts associated with the proposed redesignation.

Redesignation of the proposed areas to Class I could affect new sources locating within the proposed Class I area and the surrounding areas depending on the proposed source's projected impact on air quality. If the area under consideration is redesignated as Class I, the more restrictive increments of deterioration permitted in Class I areas for TSP and SO_2 would be applicable, rather than the larger increments permitted in Class II areas. The impacts discussed in the analysis are those arising from the stricter TSP and SO_2 increments.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed regulations protecting visibility in Class I areas. The proposed regulations contain a requirement that there be a revision to the State Implementation Plan nine months after final regulations have been promulgated. It is unclear at this time what the final regulations will require and which lands will be affected.

Final PSD regulations for sulfur dioxide and total suspended particulates were promulgated by EPA on August 7, 1980. Data for these analyses were gathered prior to the promulgation; therefore, the analyses are based on EPA PSD regulations in effect prior to the August 7, 1980 promulgation. In addition, PSD regulations currently are being developed by EPA to

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address the five other criteria pollutants. It is also unknown what the program will be since the final rule is expected no earlier than mid 1982.

To facilitate a review of the analyses, a summary of the findings of the impact analyses is included at the beginning. An outline of the topics addressed in the analyses are included. Letters and numbers on the outline correspond to sections in the analyses. Any topics listed in the outline which are not considered relevant to this particular area redesignation proposal are so stated in the analyses.

Please review carefully the attached document and present comments to staff on the document either at the public meetings or in writing any time prior to the Board's public hearing presently scheduled for spring 1981.

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I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. Socio-Economic Impacts

The proposed Class I area is an addition to surrounding lands already designated as federal Class I areas. Consequently, redesignation of the proposed Class I area from Class II to Class I would not significantly alter existing air quality requirements on sources proposing to locate in surrounding areas. Similarly, the redesignation would not constrain industrial development within the proposed Class I and in surrounding areas.

B. Energy Impacts

Since Mineral King Valley is surrounded on three sides by portions of Sequoia National Park, a federal Class I area, any future energy development will be regulated by air quality considerations pertaining to the existing Class I area. Redesignating Mineral King Valley from Class II to Class I is not expected to have any additional impact on energy development in the proposed Class I or surrounding areas.

C. Environmental Impacts

Redesignating Mineral King Valley to Class I will maintain the good air quality in the area. Protection of the air resource in Mineral King Valley is consistent with the overall resource protection goal of public land areas such as national parks. Therefore, no environmental impacts are likely to result in the proposed or surrounding areas due to the redesignation.

D. Health Impacts

Redesignating the Mineral King Valley area from Class II to Class I will help maintain the good air quality in the area and provide protection for sensitive members of the population who may use the area. The redesignation will not have negative health impacts on the proposed or surrounding areas.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Description of Dominant Physical and Cultural Features of Mineral King Valley, the Proposed Class I Area

1. Geographic Description

The area commonly known as Mineral King Valley is actually part of Sequoia National Park.[2] It was added to the park

[2]See map on page 15.

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on November 10, 1978, approximately one year after Congress declared the park to be a mandatory Class I area. Prior to November 10, 1978, Mineral King Valley, constituting 16,200 acres, was known as the Sequoia National Game Refuge.

Located in Tulare County, Mineral King Valley is approximately 40 miles southeast of Visalia and 80 miles northeast of Bakersfield. It is bordered on the north, west, and east by Sequoia National Park. It shares its southern border with another proposed Class I area, Golden Trout Wilderness.

2. Notable Land Formations

Mineral King Valley is typical of intermountain valleys of the Central Sierra Nevada. The terrain is characterized by bare granitic and metamorphic rock at higher elevations and alluvial deposits on the valley floor. The landscape was modified by glacial and stream-erosion, as evidenced by the characteristic U-shape of the valley.

Canyon walls surrounding the valley are steep and are composed of metamorphic rock. As a result of glacial activity, these rock walls, which are unique to Mineral King, have crumbled to form loose talus slopes with 30 to 60 percent grades that are highly susceptible to avalanches. These avalanches have created a lightly timbered, open vista environment. In contrast, valley walls in the rest of the Sierra tend to be granitic cliffs, and the valleys are heavily timbered. Another unique feature of Mineral King Valley is the highest limestone cave formation in California, occurring at elevations between 10,000 and 11,000 feet.

3. Vegetation

Mineral King Valley is principally in the lodgepole pine - red fir belt, although the vegetation of the area is diverse due to the range in elevations. The valley contains pure dense stands of red fir and scattered small areas dominated by lodgepole pine. As elevation increases to treeline, the forest communities become more open, and trees become shorter.

The heavy avalanche activity in the valley results in many open areas which would normally be forested at this elevation in the Sierra Nevada.

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4. Dominant Forms of Wildlife

Each of the major vegetation types within Mineral King hosts a variety of wildlife. Forested areas host an array of mammals and birds. In alpine zones, where vegetation becomes more sparse, there are fewer animal species represented.

The lakes and streams of Mineral King Valley are typical of the Sierra in that they have naturally low biological productivity making them incapable of supporting large fish populations.

Perhaps the most prominent wildlife in Mineral King Valley is the California mule deer which was a primary reason for the establishment of the Sequoia National Game Refuge in 1926. A herd of mule deer (Odocolleous hemionus Californieus) summers in Mineral King Valley at elevations between 6,000 to 10,000 feet.

5. Location and Accessibility of Commercial Facilities, Services

Food and lodging are available in Silver City on Mineral King Valley's northwestern border. More extensive commercial facilities, including gas and postal services, are located to the northwest of Mineral King Valley in a portion of Sequoia National Park known as the Giant Forest. The community of Three Rivers, with a population of about 2,000 people, functions as a gateway community for Mineral King by providing a full range of visitor services and accommodations.

6. Transportation Patterns

Mineral King Road, a 25-mile narrow, steep, substandard road, provides access to Mineral King. The road branches off State Highway 198 which receives traffic from State Highway 99, the Sacramento - Los Angeles corridor.

Mineral King Valley has 39 miles of hiking trails. Motor vehicles are prohibited on these trails during the summer, but over-snow vehicles are permitted in Mineral King Valley during the winter.

7. Air Quality

A comparison of Tulare County's air monitoring data with national primary ambient air quality standards for total

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suspended particulates shows this county is nonattainment for particulate matter. Sulfur dioxide is not monitored in Tulare County; therefore, it is unclassified for this pollutant.

No TSP or SO_2 monitoring stations are located in Mineral King Valley.[2] The TSP monitoring station closest to Mineral King (decommissioned after 1978) was in Three Rivers, near the junction of Mineral King Road and State Highway 198. Data for the year 1978 are presented below.[3] Also included for comparison are the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES DATA
($\mu g/m^3$)

	1978		
	Highest 24-hour Average Concent.	Second Highest 24-hour Average Concent.	Annual Geometric Mean
Three Rivers	117	116	44.0*
Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards	260	260	75
Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards	150	150	60

*The statistic is not based on a full year sample and may not be representative.

Because Mineral King Valley is designated unclassified or attainment for at least one of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, it is Class II. If it is redesignated to Class I, less deterioration above the baseline will be allowed than if it remains Class II.[4] The increments of deterioration allowed in Class I and II areas are listed below.

[3]State of California, Air Resources Board, 1978. (A detailed citation appears in the reference section.)

[4]The baseline represents an air quality concentration measured at the time of the first application for permit to operate.

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Increments of Allowable Deterioration
($\mu g/m^3$)

PSD	Total Suspended Particulates		Sulfur Dioxide	
	Class I	Class II	Class I	Class II
Annual	5	19	2	20
24-Hour	10	37	5	91
3-Hour	--	--	25	512

8. Emission Producing Activities

No stationary sources are located within Mineral King Valley. Activities which produce emissions are limited to motor vehicle travel of visitors, as well as other visitor activities.

9. Identification of Inholdings[5]

At the present time, 745.11 acres in 44 tracts within Mineral King Valley are privately owned. Of that amount, 517.63 acres are developed and the remaining 227.48 acres are undeveloped. Development includes 29 summer residential tracts and one small commercial complex. This commercial complex is located at Silver City and provides rustic overnight accommodations and food services.

Cabin permits that were granted when Mineral King Valley was part of the Sequoia National Forest will be renewed by the National Park Service for the lifetime of the owner. The Park Service will acquire other private lands when owners want to sell their property.

10. Primary Economic Base

Discussion of primary economic base is not applicable because no industrial inholdings are located within park boundaries.

11. Employment Base

Discussion of employment base is not applicable because no industrial inholdings are located within park boundaries.

[5]For purposes of this analysis, an inholding refers to a parcel of privately owned land within exterior borders of a public land area.

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12. Current Population and Anticipated Population Projections

Because the area in question is a national park, the discussion is applicable only to inholdings. The inholdings are used seasonally, primarily during the summer months, and support no permanent population other than one person who is a year-round caretaker.

13. Current and Anticipated Visitor Activity

Visitor activities in Mineral King include camping, hiking, fishing, backpack trips, and summer cabin use. Use of recreational facilities are frequently at capacity during the summer months. Approximately 75 percent of total annual visitation occurs during the months of June through September.

Annual Visitation

1979	30,494
1978	52,252
1977	31,577
1976	57,057
1975	42,126

14. Existing Forecasts for Economic Growth of the Area

No economic growth is expected because Mineral King Valley is part of a National Park and also because the National Park Service is acquiring inholdings.

B. Description of Dominant Physical and Cultural Features of Areas Surrounding the Potential Class I Area

NOTE: Sequoia National Park, a mandatory Class I area, borders Mineral King Valley on the north, west, and east. Sequoia National Park and its surrounding areas are already subject to air quality regulations associated with the existing Class I classification. Because Mineral King Valley is surrounded on three sides by a Class I area, the determination has been made that the surrounding area would not be additionally impacted by the redesignation of Mineral King Valley to Class I. The following description of Tulare County is provided only as information and is not to be interpreted as the area of impact for the proposed Class I areas.

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1. Geographic Description

Mineral King Valley is located in Tulare County. Lying in the southeastern part of the San Joaquin Valley, Tulare County is situated about 120 miles north of Los Angeles. The Sierra Nevada mountains occupy the eastern part of Tulare County, while the western part is relatively flat and largely devoted to agriculture. Large areas of the county are part of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Inyo and Sequoia National Forests.

2. Air Quality

Tulare County is currently nonattainment for TSP but unclassified for SO_2 due to a lack of sufficient monitoring data. TSP emissions in 1976 averaged 292 tons per day and were estimated to be principally from farming operations and road travel. In 1976, the SO_2 emissions averaged 3.0 tons per day with mobile sources being the principal source.[6]

The highest and second highest TSP readings and the annual geometric means recorded in Tulare County for the years 1978 and 1979 appear below. Also included for comparison are the NAAQS.

TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES DATA
($\mu g/m^3$)

	1978			1979		
	Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Second Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Annual Geometric Mean	Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Second Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Annual Geometric Mean
Goshen	269	212	106.8*	---	---	---
Porterville-S. Main	218	209	91.2*	---	---	---
Three Rivers	117	116	44.0*	---	---	---
Visalia-Old Jail	655	494	111.2*	292	290	102.6*
Visalia-Church St.	---	---	---	259	235	124.8*
Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards	260		75	260		75
Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards	150		60	150		60

*The statistic is not based on a full year sample and may not be representative.

[6]California Air Resources Board, 1979.

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The highest 24-hour and annual average SO_2 concentrations in Tulare County are given below. The three-hour secondary NAAQS for SO_2 (0.5 ppm) was never violated nor was the state one-hour standard (0.5 ppm) in 1979.

SULFUR DIOXIDE
(ppm)

	1978			1979		
	Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Second Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Annual Mean	Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Second Highest 24-hour Average Concen.	Annual Mean
Visalia-Church St.	---	---	---	.014*	.011*	.003*
Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards	.14	---	.03	.14	---	.03

*The statistic is not based on a full year of sampling and data may not be representative.

Under the PSD program, unclassified areas are managed as attainment areas and are Class II. Therefore, because Mineral King Valley is unclassified for at least one pollutant, it is a Class II PSD area. If Mineral King Valley is redesignated to Class I, less deterioration above the baseline will be allowed than if it remains Class II. The increments of deterioration allowed in Class I and II areas are listed below.

Increments of Allowable Deterioration
($\mu g/m^3$)

	Total Suspended Particulates		Sulfur Dioxide	
PSD	Class I	Class II	Class I	Class II
Annual	5	19	2(.001 ppm)	20(.008 ppm)
24-Hour	10	37	5(.002 ppm)	91(.035 ppm)
3-Hour	--	--	25(.010 ppm)	512(.196 ppm)

As indicated by the air quality monitoring data displayed in the table on page 7, Tulare County has violations of the TSP standard and, therefore, is nonattainment for TSP. Consequently, for proposed new or modified sources emitting TSP, the requirements of the current New Source Review rule would apply in specifying control of the TSP. Should the same source emit other pollutants or other

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sources be proposed that emit pollutants for which the area is attainment or unclassified, the requirements of the current federal PSD rule would apply.

3. Commercial Facilities, Services

Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville are centers for commercial services in Tulare County. The cities have full retail trade and service sectors, including shopping, dining, hotel/motel accommodations, and recreational facilities. Near the Mineral King area, limited facilities are available in the smaller towns such as Three Rivers and Exeter.

4. Transportation

In western Tulare County many highways and local roads serve the towns of Tulare, Visalia, and Porterville, along with other smaller communities. The main north-south travel route is along Highway 99. The major east-west route is Highway 198 which passes through Visalia east to Sequoia National Park.

The main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad runs alongside Highway 99; a branch line passes through the county farther east. Tulare, Visalia, and Porterville have airports.

5. Current Population and Projected Growth Rate

The population of Tulare County was estimated at 231,700 in 1979.[7] The 1980 population is projected to be 237,400, while the population is projected to grow to 264,900 by 1985, roughly a 14 percent increase over current levels.[8]

6. Major Industries in the Area

There are no industries in Tulare County which emit over 100 tons per year of TSP or SO_2.[9]

7. Employment/Income/Economic Base

The western part of Tulare County is an important agricultural area, usually ranking second or third in the nation in agricultural sales volume. Important products

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[7]Department of Finance, 1979.

[8]Department of Finance, 1980.

[9]California Air Resources Board, 1979.

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include grapes, citrus and other fruits, cotton, small grains, alfalfa hay, livestock, poultry, and dairy products. Agricultural services such as planting, harvesting, and processing are also an important part of the economic base.

Extensive outdoor recreational facilities are located in the eastern portion of Tulare County. Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, and Sequoia National Forest are prime attractions for visitors and account for government and retail trade, respectively, being the second and third largest employment sectors.

The total wage and salary employment in 1979 in Tulare County was 92,250 (annual average).[10] Agriculture employed the most people, generating 25,850 jobs, or 28 percent of the total. Government followed with 17,650 workers, 19.1 percent of the total, while retail trade provided 13,350 jobs, 14.5 percent of the total. Manufacturing and services employed 11,850 workers and 10,050 workers, respectively, in 1979, representing 12.8 percent and 10.9 percent of the total. In the same year, the civilian labor force (employed and unemployed) was 113,600, and Tulare County had a 7.3 percent unemployment rate.

8. Existing Forecasts for Economic Growth

Tulare County's economy is expected to continue its strong emphasis on agricultural production and related activities such as food processing and agricultural services. The agricultural sector will continue to be the number one employer. The companies in related manufacturing fields such as nut hulling and cotton ginning have announced plans to build new facilities or expand existing facilities in Tulare County. Additionally, there are plans to expand existing dairy operations around Visalia.

Other manufacturing growth opportunities are in the stone, glass, and clay products group, including new cement and asphalt operations. Preliminary planning is underway for an automotive trailer assembly plant in the county. In addition, Tulare County has been approached by high technology firms seeking expansion sites outside

[10] Data are based on number of employees reported by place of work and do not include persons involved in labor-management trade disputes. Consequently, the above workforce number is not as high as Tulare County's annual average total civilian labor force of 105,300.

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of their present locations in the Santa Clara Valley. The county is encouraging this possible source of new economic growth.

A moderate growth increase is expected in the service sectors, retail trade, and personal and professional services. Employment in state and local government is expected either to remain constant or decline slightly.[11]

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

A. Examination of Socio-Economic Impacts on the Proposed Class I Area

Mineral King Valley is part of Sequoia National Park, a mandatory Class I area. It is managed to maintain the natural ecosystem and to provide outstanding opportunities for visitor enjoyment of the area. No industrial facilities are located within Mineral King Valley. While there are private inholdings, the National Park Service is pursuing a policy of acquiring the residential inholdings when possible. Because of its location relative to existing federal Class I areas, Mineral King Valley already is affected by the air quality considerations which prevent the deterioration of air quality in Class I areas. Therefore, redesignating the proposed Class I area would have no additional socio-economic impacts on Mineral King Valley.

B. Examination of Socio-Economic Impacts on Surrounding Areas

Tulare County has two distinct environments -- the western part of the county is relatively flat and largely devoted to agriculture, while the eastern part is mountainous and consists of national forests and national parks. Economic growth forecasts indicate agriculture will continue to be important in the county.

The proposed Class I area, Mineral King Valley, is located in the eastern mountainous part of the county. It is bordered on three sides by Sequoia National Park, a federal Class I area, and on the other side by Sequoia National Forest. Due to the proximity of the mandatory Class I area and the assessment that the proposed Class I area would impact nearly identical areas as the mandatory Class I areas, redesignating Mineral King Valley will not alter air quality requirements on source modifications or sources choosing to locate in surrounding areas. Therefore, redesignating Mineral King Valley from Class II to Class I will have no additional socio-economic impacts on industrial or general development.

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[11] Employment Development Department, 1980.

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IV. ENERGY IMPACTS

A. Description of Energy Resources and Energy Producing Facilities within the Proposed Class I Area

There are no energy producing facilities or plans for future facilities within the Mineral King Valley.[12] There has not been any recent exploration for economic minerals in Mineral King Valley using modern technology; however, a California Division of Mines Report (dated 1958) identifies 23 mines or prospects in the area. They have not been developed beyond the prospective stage, and no future development is expected.[13]

B. Description of Energy Resources and Energy Producing Facilities in Areas Surrounding the Proposed Class I Area

Tulare County has five hydroelectric power plants. No plans to expand existing facilities or construct new facilities have been submitted to the California Energy Commission.[14]

In 1978, Tulare County produced 92,862 barrels of oil, making Tulare the tenth largest oil producing county in the state. Natural gas production was slightly over 215.6 million cubic feet the same year. Some prospective wells have been identified; however, no public information is available on specific plans for their development.[15]

C. Impact of Reclassification on Potential Energy and Resource Development within the Proposed Class I Area and Surrounding Areas

No energy or resource development is expected within the proposed Class I area. Oil and gas development may occur in Tulare County. Since Mineral King Valley is surrounded on

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[12] State of California Energy Commission, Assessment of Electric Utility Supply Plans 1978-2000, Sacramento, CA, November 1979.

[13] U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 5, Sequoia National Forest, Final Environmental Statement Mineral King Recreation Development, February 26, 1976.

[14] op cit., California Energy Commission.

[15] State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas, Sacramento, CA, 1979.

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three sides by portions of Sequoia National Park, an existing Class I area, any reviewable resource extraction activity is already regulated by air quality considerations pertaining to the existing Class I area. Redesignating Mineral King Valley is not expected to have any additional impact on resource development in the proposed Class I or the county.

V. EXAMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The National Park Service manages Mineral King Valley as a district within Sequoia National Park. The management objectives are to ensure the preservation of the outstanding natural and scenic features of the area for present and future generations and to enhance public enjoyment of the area. In certain public lands, such as this, air quality is a critical concern since any significant deterioration of air quality would affect the visibility and scenic beauty of the area, thereby diminishing the very purposes for which these special areas were established. Some areas, which in the past had 100-mile visibility, now have an average visibility of 30-miles.[16] The EPA has proposed regulations to protect visibility in federal Class I areas. If the proposed regulations are adopted, they could affect areas surrounding Class I areas.

The proposed visibility regulations contain a requirement that there be a revision to the State Implementation Plan in nine months after final regulations have been promulgated. Therefore, it is anticipated the state will need a visibility program by August 1981. It is unclear at this time what the final regulations will require and which lands will be affected.

Lands south of Mineral King Valley are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and include Golden Trout Wilderness, another area under consideration for Class I status. Golden Trout is managed so as to discourage permanent human intervention in the landscape. Logging is not permitted; the use of mechanized vehicles is discouraged and no campgrounds are located within wilderness boundaries. At the present time, the U.S. Forest Service does not allow prescribed burning in the wilderness; however, they will be proposing this policy be reversed. Redesignation of an area to Class I is not anticipated to cause any changes in the current ARB agricultural burning regulations.

In other parts of Sequoia National Forest, logging is allowed. In heavily forested areas of Inyo National Forest, there is some logging activity.

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[16] Report by U. S. Congress, House, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Report Number 95-294, Report of Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, pages 204-207.

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Off-road vehicles are allowed around the edge of Golden Trout Wilderness but are limited to trails. East of the Kern River, these vehicles are not restricted to trails. Inyo National Forest has a 1977 off-road vehicle management plan which is still in effect.

Preventing additional deterioration of air quality in this area will help protect the environment from damage to the ecosystem. Pollutants in the atmosphere impact the entire environment as they are absorbed into the soil and affect water composition. Through bio-accumulation and the natural food chain, these elements can induce injury to vegetation, wildlife, and humans.

Redesignation of Mineral King Valley from Class II to Class I is consistent with the National Park Service's management of the land to maintain the natural condition of the area. There are no known negative environmental impacts likely to result on the proposed and surrounding areas due to the redesignation.

VI. EXAMINATION OF HEALTH IMPACTS

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) represent the level of air quality determined to be necessary, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the health of most individuals. People suffering with chronic bronchitis which are aggravated by exposure to toxic pollutants in the air, show adverse effects from levels of air pollution normally tolerated. These people are often the very young and the elderly. Increasingly, there is recognition that aggravation of respiratory conditions in the elderly and the very young is found to occur at sulfur dioxide and particulate levels lower than the NAAQS.[17]

One purpose of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program as stated by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments is to "protect the public health and welfare from any actual or potential adverse effects which may reasonably be anticipated to occur from air pollution..." even in areas which have air quality equal to or better than the NAAQS.[18] These areas can serve as respite areas for people with chronic respiratory diseases who reside in more polluted urban areas. Redesignating Mineral King Valley from Class II to Class I will maintain existing levels of air quality and continue to provide protection for sensitive members of the population who may use the Class I area. The redesignation will not have negative health impacts either within the proposed Class I area or in areas which surround the proposed Class I area.

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[17] Ibid, page 107.

[18] Section 160, 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments.

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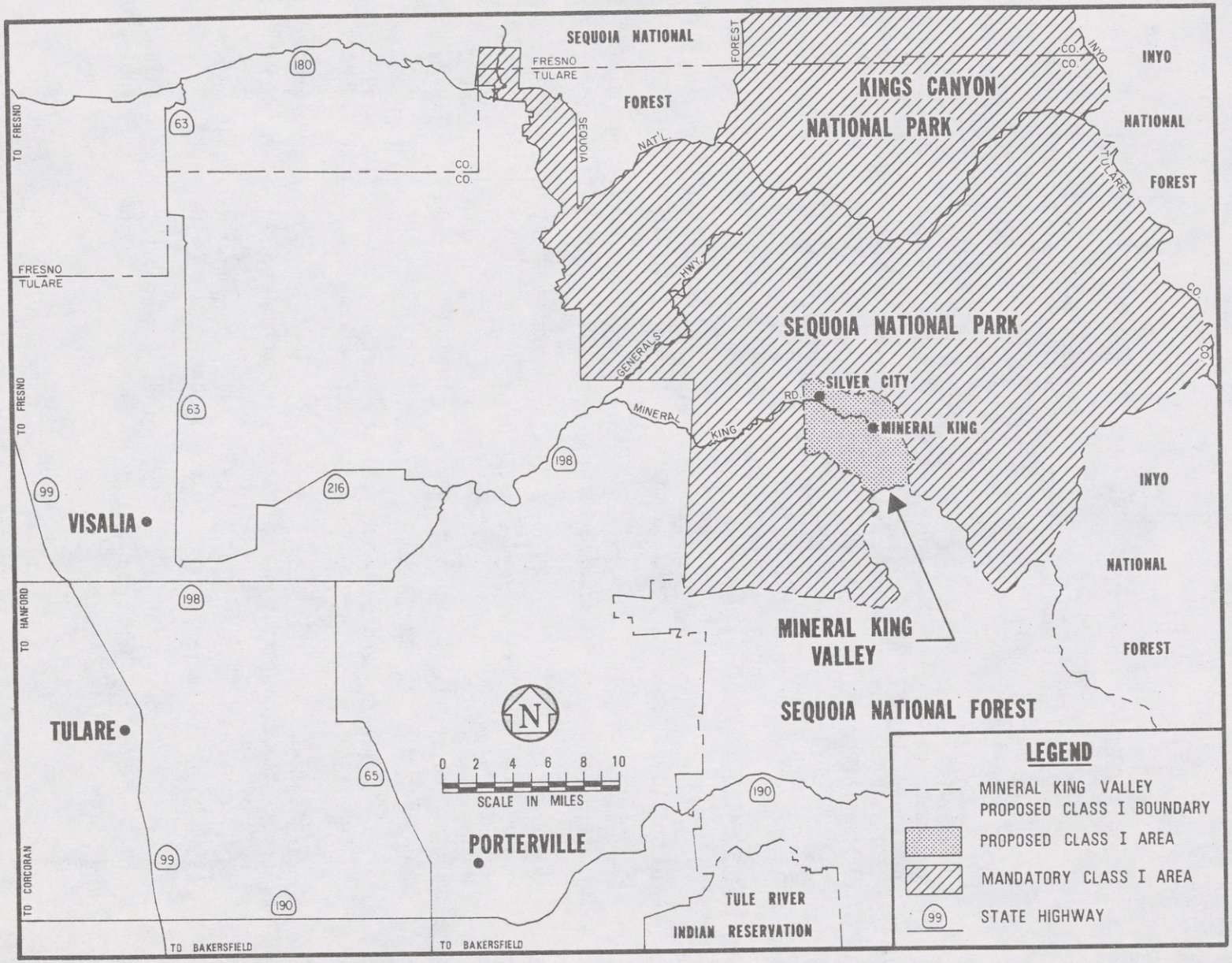
MINERAL KING VALLEY



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State of California, Employment Development Department, "Projections of Employment, Tulare/Kings Counties," September 1978.

State of California Energy Commission, Assessment of Electric Utility Supply Plans 1978-2000, Sacramento, CA, November 1979.

Tulare County Air Pollution Control District.

U. S. Congress, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Hearings before the Subcommittee on Public Health and the Environment on Clean Air Act Oversight, 1973, 95th Congress, 1st session, as cited in U. S. Congress, House, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Report No. 95-294, Report of Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977.

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U.S. Government Printing Office, The Clean Air Act as amended in 1977, Washington, 1977, Serial 95-11.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

AIR RESOURCES BOARD
1102 Q STREET
P.O. BOX 2815
SACRAMENTO, CA 95812

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

The California Air Resources Board staff will hold a public workshop at the time and place described below to obtain participant comments regarding the Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program and the California Air Conservation Program (ACP).

DATE: November 6, 1980

TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Registration

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Workshop

PLACE: Hacienda Inn
Apollo 3 Room
Fresno, CA 93705

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for the public to receive information on what the Federal PSD program is and to give comments to the ARB staff on the type of PSD program California should have. A pamphlet providing background for the workshop is attached.

The workshop will have staff presentations on the present Federal PSD program to provide workshop participants with our basic understanding of the PSD program. The workshop will conclude with small group discussions which we hope you will use to pass on to ARB staff, concepts, ideas, and other comments about the program.

Following the workshop at 7:00 p.m., in the same location, a public hearing (meeting) will be held to take testimony on the proposal to redesignate the High Sierra Primitive Area, Devils Postpile National Monument, Mineral King Valley (addition to Sequoia National Park), and Golden Trout Wilderness from Class II to Class I. A notice of the public meeting has been sent to you previously with copies of the impact statements on the areas being considered for redesignation.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please contact Gary Honcoop at (916) 322-2700 or P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATED TO PSD*

AIR QUALITY STANDARD	A level of ambient air pollution set by EPA and is not to be exceeded. A standard has been set for each of 6 pollutants; O_3, TSP, SO_2, NO_2, HC, Pb.
ATTAINMENT AREA	Area that has air quality concentrations cleaner than at least one of the air quality standards and requires PSD to prevent air quality from significantly deteriorating. An area can be attainment for one pollutant, but nonattainment for another.
BACT	Best Available Control Technology; usually emissions control equipment that is readily available or used by others; less stringent than LAER.
BASELINE	A level of air quality concentration existing at a particular time to which increments are added.
CO	Carbon Monoxide; pollutant formed in the combustion of nearly every fuel.
CONCENTRATION	Amount of air pollution per unit of air, such as in parts per million (PPM) or micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$).
EMISSIONS	The emission of air pollutants to the atmosphere, usually expressed as lbs./hr.
HC	Hydrocarbons; pollutant from most flammable fuels, contributes to the formation of smog in the atmosphere.
INCREMENT	A specified amount of air pollution concentration allowed to be used up under the PSD program.
LAER	Lowest Achievable Emission Rate; most effective emissions control equipment found to be technologically feasible; more stringent than BACT.
MODELING	Mathematical, usually computer simulation, calculations to predict air pollutant concentrations downwind of a source/sources.
MONITORING	Air sampling to determine air pollution concentrations.

*Terms are to enhance understanding and are not designed to be technically complete.

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NONATTAINMENT AREA	Area that has air quality concentrations worse than at least one of the air quality standards, and needs a program to reduce pollution to have air quality cleaner than the standard.
NOx	Oxides of nitrogen; pollutants emitted by a source or formed in the atmosphere from other photochemical reactions.
OFFSETS	Securing air pollution emissions reductions from an existing source to balance off the increase from a proposed source or modification.
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration.
REDESIGNATION	Process by which state may change PSD area designation from II to I or II to III.
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide; pollutant emitted by the burning of fuels containing sulfur.
SOURCE	An industrial plant emitting air pollutants; such as cement plant, refinery, power plant, etc.
TSP	Total Suspended Particulates; particles in the air such as dust, smoke, smog, etc.
UNCLASSIFIED AREA	Area in which no air quality monitoring has been done, or is insufficient; regarded in some way as an area attaining air quality standards.

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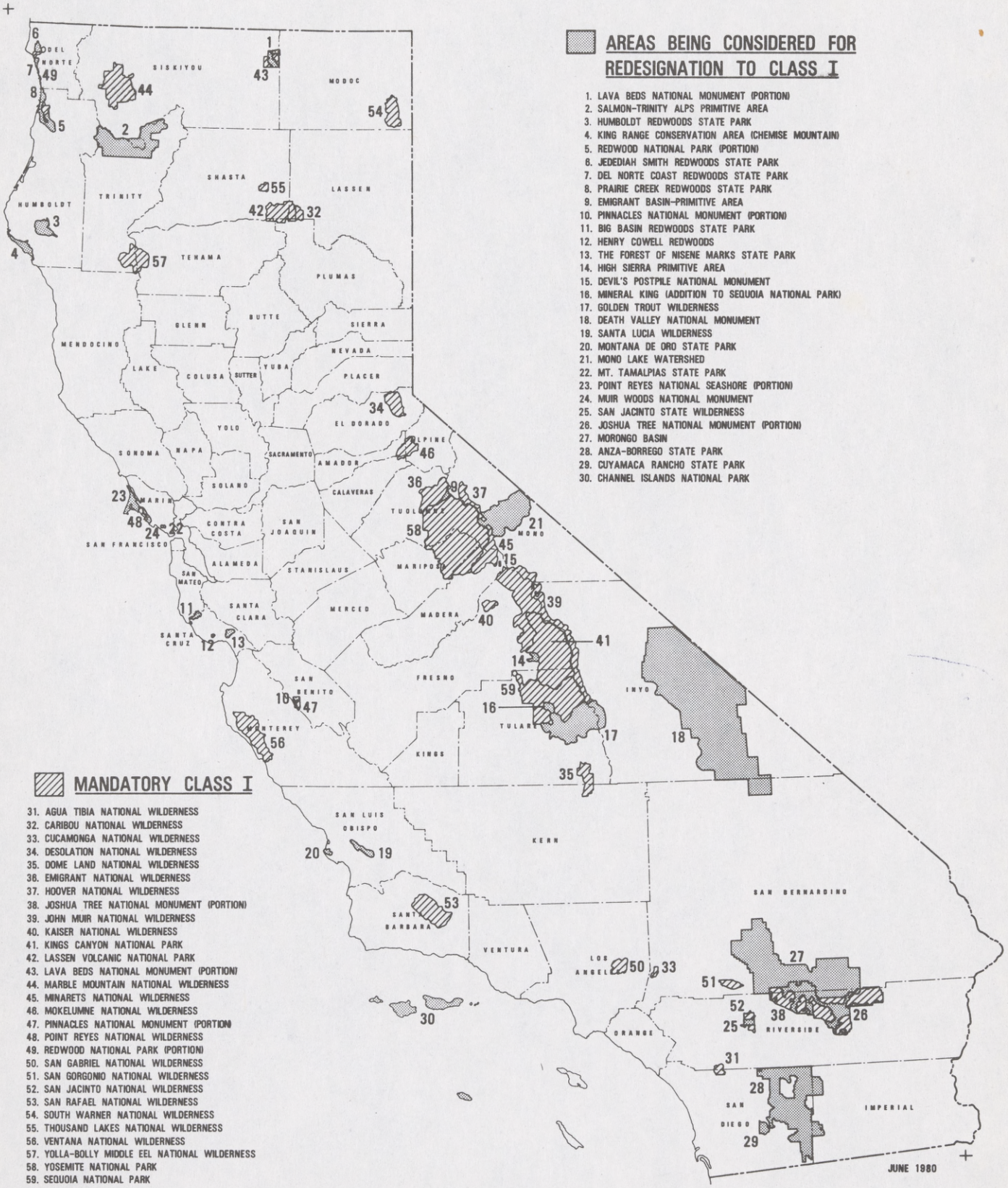

AREAS BEING CONSIDERED FOR REDESIGNATION TO CLASS I

1. LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT (PORTION)
2. SALMON-TRINITY ALPS PRIMITIVE AREA
3. HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK
4. KING RANGE CONSERVATION AREA (CHEMISE MOUNTAIN)
5. REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK (PORTION)
6. JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK
7. DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK
8. PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
9. EMIGRANT BASIN-PRIMITIVE AREA
10. PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT (PORTION)
11. BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK
12. HENRY COWELL REDWOODS
13. THE FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK
14. HIGH SIERRA PRIMITIVE AREA
15. DEVIL'S POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT
16. MINERAL KING (ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK)
17. GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS
18. DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT
19. SANTA LUCIA WILDERNESS
20. MONTANA DE ORO STATE PARK
21. MONO LAKE WATERSHED
22. MT. TAMALPIAS STATE PARK
23. POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE (PORTION)
24. MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT
25. SAN JACINTO STATE WILDERNESS
26. JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT (PORTION)
27. MORONGO BASIN
28. ANZA-BORREGO STATE PARK
29. CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK
30. CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

MANDATORY CLASS I

31. AGUA TIBIA NATIONAL WILDERNESS
32. CARIBOU NATIONAL WILDERNESS
33. CUCAMONGA NATIONAL WILDERNESS
34. DESOLATION NATIONAL WILDERNESS
35. DOME LAND NATIONAL WILDERNESS
36. EMIGRANT NATIONAL WILDERNESS
37. HOOVER NATIONAL WILDERNESS
38. JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT (PORTION)
39. JOHN MUIR NATIONAL WILDERNESS
40. KAISER NATIONAL WILDERNESS
41. KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK
42. LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
43. LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT (PORTION)
44. MARBLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL WILDERNESS
45. MINARETS NATIONAL WILDERNESS
46. MOKELUMNE NATIONAL WILDERNESS
47. PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT (PORTION)
48. POINT REYES NATIONAL WILDERNESS
49. REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK (PORTION)
50. SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL WILDERNESS
51. SAN GORGONIO NATIONAL WILDERNESS
52. SAN JACINTO NATIONAL WILDERNESS
53. SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL WILDERNESS
54. SOUTH WARNER NATIONAL WILDERNESS
55. THOUSAND LAKES NATIONAL WILDERNESS
56. VENTANA NATIONAL WILDERNESS
57. YOLLA-BOLLY MIDDLE EEL NATIONAL WILDERNESS
58. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
59. SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

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IMPACT ANALYSES STATEMENTS FOR AREA REDESIGNATION PROPOSALS

Name	Date Published
YREKA	
Lava Beds National Monument	8-13-80
Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area	8-13-80
REDDING	
Lava Beds National Monument	8-13-80
Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area	8-13-80
EUREKA	
Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area	8-13-80
Humboldt Redwoods State Park	8-28-80
King Range Conservation Area	8-28-80
Redwoods National Park	8-28-80
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park	8-28-80
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park	8-28-80
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	8-27-80
SONORA	
Emigrant Basin-Primitive Area	9-16-80
FRESNO	
High Sierra Primitive Area	9-19-80
Devil's Postpile National Monument	9-11-80
Mineral King (addition to Sequoia National Park)	9-12-80
Golden Trout Wilderness	9-18-80
SALINAS	
Pinnacles National Monument	9-25-80
SANTA CRUZ	
Big Basin Redwoods State Park	10-3-80
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park	10-1-80
Forest of Nicene Marks State Park	10-1-80
LEE VINING	
Mono Lake Watershed	To be published
Emigrant Basin-Primitive Area	9-16-80
Devils Postpile National Monument	9-11-80

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LONE PINE

Death Valley National Monument	To be published
Golden Trout Wilderness	9-18-80

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Santa Lucia Wilderness	To be published
Montana de Oro State Park	To be published

SAN FRANCISCO

Mt. Tamalpais State Park	To be published
Point Reyes	To be published
Muir Woods	To be published

YUCCA VALLEY

San Jacinto State Wilderness	To be published
Joshua Tree National Monument	To be published
Morongo Basin	To be published

SAN DIEGO

Anza-Borrego State Park	To be published
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park	To be published

SANTA BARBARA

Channel Islands National Monument	To be published

LOS ANGELES

General Discussion
Statewide/South Coast Emphases

Death Valley	To be published
Mono Lake	To be published
San Jacinto	To be published
Joshua Tree	To be published
Morongo Basin	To be published
Channel Islands	To be published

SACRAMENTO

State Agency/Statewide Emphasis

2023.009.0335.27